

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

January 15, 2009

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: Jim Calnon (W4)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on January 8, 2009 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 14, 2009 in the amount of **\$233,614.60** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of January 8-14, 2009
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from January 6-13, 2009

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. AUDITS OF CLAIMS

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of **\$939,474.96** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

5. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Jennifer Colver of 37 Hamilton Street read attached letter.

Dave Bezio of 3 Jennifer Drive stated that Councilor Calnon's presentation wasn't entirely correct. Bezio said that the buildings PMLD are converting to bigger transformers will generate more electric. The new buildings such as Kinney's, Wal-green's, WIRY, and the United Group project housing will generate more electric. Secondly Bezio said that Councilor Calnon's comment about the rods that PARC gave the City were free was not entirely true. Bezio said yes some were given and they were free but most of them were junk. Bezio then showed multiple invoices that bared the names Don Kasprzak, Mayor Stewart and Bill Treacy from 2006 and 2007 which provide over 1,075 rods varying in style. Bezio's point is to show that there were extra materials even though he was told there was no extra material therefore there is no work. Bezio said in the yard there is a 4160 transformer area which contains 142 transformers and 30 of those are brand new. They cost from \$750-\$1,000 a piece. They are needed in the City. Bezio said they just installed 50 of them. Bezio said the street lights that Councilor Calnon said would take a couple weeks in fact will take a couple years. Bezio went on to say that the State is providing MLD \$162,000 to revamp the distribution system on Tom Miller Road area. The State is also providing about \$400,000 for transmission wiring. Bezio said that's a huge amount of money although probably most of that is for material but there is a large amount of labor too. Bezio that project will probably cover a couple yearly salaries.

6. OTHER ITEMS

**A. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF EMPIRE ZONE
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEMBER TO LISA ROBERTS, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
CHAMPLAIN NATIONAL BANK.**

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

**B. Request from the City Engineer for permission for the Mayor to sign Indoor Soccer Grant
PKS-04-TI-015 New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in the total amount
of \$15,000 in which the City will be reimbursed this money that was spent on the Indoor
Soccer Field at the Crete Civic Center.**

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Mayor to sign the Indoor Soccer Grant PKS-04-TI-015 New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in the total amount of \$15,000 in which the City will be reimbursed this money that was spent on the Indoor Soccer Field at the Crete Civic Center.

By Councilor Jackson; Second by Councilor Kelly
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action None

C. Whereas, in view of the declining electric demand and revenue from industrial users and on going and increasing operating costs, it appears that the pending 5.44% electric rate increase request may be insufficient to eliminate the PMLD operating deficit, therefore;

RESOLVED: The City's consultant to the Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department, La Capra Associates, is authorized to request a stay of proceedings before the New York Public Service Commission in Case 08-E-1227, a proceeding as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department for Electric Service.

By Councilor Jackson; Second by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Valentine)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action None

7. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

1. Request from the City Engineer to be authorized to enter into an agreement with Fountains Spatial Inc. for professional services related to Geographic Information System (GIS) Implementation in the total amount of \$31,776 in which the funds will come from Capital Project H5110.13 "2005 GIS Project" and part of the NYS Archives Grant.
2. Request from WPCP & WFP to award Contract #2008-15 15% Sodium Hypochlorite-Trade Solution to Slack Chemical Company at an estimated price of \$61,776.
3. Request from WPCP to award Contract #2008-16 Liquid Alum to Slack Chemical Company at an estimated price of \$44,609.33.
4. Request from WPCP to award Contract #2008-17 30% Sodium Thiosulfate to Thatcher Company at an estimated price of \$37,230.
5. Request from Chief Desmond Racicot to continue the contract with Ron Santor as the Police Department's Training Director and to run the Police Academy which will begin in February 2009 and the cost will remain the same as the past and will be paid out of Asset Forfeiture Fund.
6. Request from Chief Desmond Racicot to continue the contract with James Burgess the Nuisance Animal Control Officer at the same rate as 2008.
7. Request from the City Clerk for the Mayor to authorize the franchise agreement with Charter Communications negotiated by the Clinton County Cable TV Council.
8. Request from DPW for the Common Council to authorize a temporary agreement with

NYSDOT for the Undertaking in Connection with Highway Permits.

9. Request from Chief Paul Williams to attend the New York State Career Chiefs Meeting in Cortland or Ithaca on January 27 at a cost not to exceed \$350.
10. Request from the DPW to fill the Auto Mechanic Helper Position which funding is included in the 2009 Budget.
11. Request from PMLD to fill the PMLD Financial Director position which funding is included in the 2009 budget.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Kelly would like to schedule a work session to discuss MLD every week until their budget is voted on. Also he doesn't recall there being any raises for the department heads in the 2009 budget and wanted to confirm that.

Mayor Kasprzak said it was not included in his budget and he has some responses from Councilor Calnon's email to the Council about department head increases. Kasprzak said he was not involved the discussion. He does have responses from Councilor Kelly and Valentine.

Councilor Valentine said she did response to Councilor Calnon's email.

Councilor Carpenter doesn't remember if they ever came to a conclusion.

Councilor Kelly said he remembers his response. He feels bad the Council didn't discuss it further.

Mayor Kasprzak said there was ample opportunity.

Councilor Kelly said yes there was.

Mayor Kasprzak said for the record this is the second year managers have not received raises. He said it wasn't personal but he wasn't placing it in his budget and they could talk to the council if they like.

Councilor Rabideau asked if the increase in their steps were still the same.

Mayor Kasprzak said their longevity steps are still there.

Councilor Carpenter asked if there was an idea what the rate increase would be if the 6 MLD positions were kept.

Councilor Calnon said more than 5.4%.

9. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andrew Gold of 17 Couch Street doesn't think the City is enforcing the snow clearing on the sidewalks. He wondered if any tickets were given out. He isn't talking about little old ladies who can't afford it but landlords etc. Gold said there is also an issue with City plows because they bring a lot of snow to the curbs and corner properties. Gold said the City should look at dealing with this problem as a source of income. The Parking Enforcement Officer could do it. Gold said the sidewalks are piled as high as 5 feet in some areas. It is impossible to walk in some areas.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:00 p.m.